

Louisville- In July 2008, Tricia Jones-Parkin had the opportunity to represent Utah Division of Services for People with Disability (DSPD) along with representatives from the Division of Rehabilitation Services at the National APSE (Association of Persons in Supported Employment) in Louisville, KY. They presented information about the success of Utah's Supported Employment program for people who are waiting for DSPD services. Jones-Parkin presented facts along with video messages from Division Directors, Representative Rhonda Menlove, and individuals who were employed and receiving support.



Several people and agencies through out the state have worked together to provide opportunities to people who wanted to go to work. At the end of June 2008, 171 people were actively participating in the program and 130 were successfully employed. The two year project was so successful that legislation was passed and funding continues with a five year sunset. The creativity and innovation of this project was very impressive to those that attended the presentation. "I discovered what was happening in other states, and how Utah is much further ahead in supporting people with disabilities. The collaborative efforts of agencies in our state are invaluable. I realized that even though we face challenges, because we work together, solutions are created," said Jones-Parkin.

Unfortunately, this is one of the programs impacted by this year's budget cut, however, those clients involved in the program will continue to participate and maintain employment.